



April 29, 2021

Representative Marvin L. Abney  
Chair, House Committee on Finance  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: House Bill 6122, Article 11 – Relating to Adult Use Marijuana**

Chair Abney and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

My Name is Kevin Hoffman and I am an owner of a Rhode Island class A cannabis cultivation and processing license in North Kingstown. I am submitting this testimony in support of Article 11, regarding adult use marijuana and oppose any additions to the current structure already in place.

The infrastructure for adult use legalization has been in place for many years now. The Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation (DBR) and the newly formed Office of Cannabis Regulation have been operating for over four years. They have done a great job overseeing the industry and while I don't always agree with them, they wouldn't be doing their job right if I did.

Here are some examples of the infrastructure that is already in place:

- Safety and testing of our products
- Security protocols
- Regulation and compliance oversight
- Regular inspections of all state licensed facilities

On the Cultivation side, the program has been in place for over four years now as well. From my perspective as an industry insider, we are ready. Article 11 calls for a moratorium on any additional cultivation licenses, as there are already 63 cultivators. Adding additional cultivation licenses would be a mistake for obvious reasons. I believe that there is already enough growing capacity to support both markets and adding more licenses would allow large, out of state companies to come in and put us small Rhode Island cultivators out of business

Regarding the Retail program, you have stores operating now and more retail stores are slowly and methodically being added this year. Article 11 also does not mandate 25 new retail licenses a year for the next three years. It only offers the option as a possible path forward.

This proposed legislation is the safest and most cautious way for Rhode Island to move forward with adult use legislation.

Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Jersey, and New York have already passed adult use legislation, with Connecticut on the path to passing adult use this year. At this point, we are truly surrounded.

Any tweaks to the program can be considered over the next few years after careful market analysis and assessment of the program. To put this off for any longer is not going to help anyone. We are ready for this and this is a common sense and cautious approach.

Rhode Island has had a medical marijuana market in place for 15 years now, and the infrastructure is in place to turn the switch on for adult use.

So, my question is: why not this year?

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Kevin Hoffman  
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